



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Texas' rural communities are wonderful places to live and work. They are places where people know each other, respect each other and work together to benefit the community. An economic engine that puts food on our tables, puts textiles on our backs and provides many of the other goods and services we enjoy, rural America has helped the United States to become the world leader it is today.

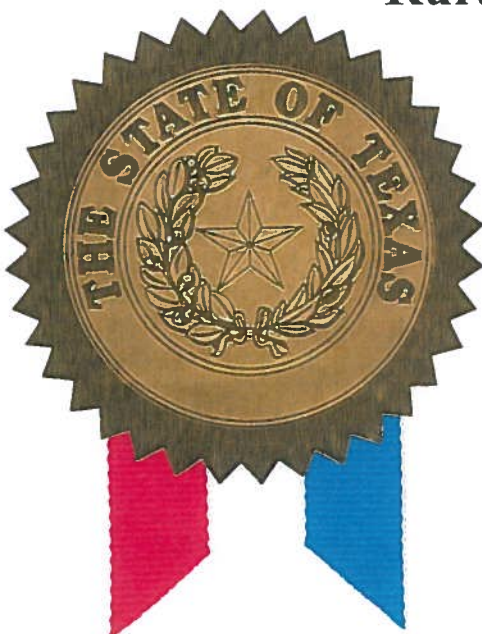
Rural communities also have unique health care needs that are constantly evolving, including accessibility issues, a lack of health care providers and an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions. Ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural areas, where 20 percent of the nation's population lives but nearly 60 percent of all trauma deaths occur. In addition to being sources of invaluable services for rural residents, rural hospitals are also often the economic foundations of their communities.

Each year, organizations throughout the nation hold a campaign in November to draw attention to the unique health care needs and opportunities that exist in rural communities.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to recognize the unique health care needs and opportunities that exist in rural communities, and recognize the State Office of Rural Health and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health for the valuable services they provide to address those needs and opportunities.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim November 17, 2016, to be

**Rural Health Day**



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this the  
14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

A handwritten signature of Greg Abbott in black ink.  
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Governor of Texas